

Prairie County FSA Office
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County Committee Members

Kevin Kuehn, Chair
Brian Rakes, Vice Chair
Timothy Ehman, Member
Carol Lachenmaier, Advisor

FSA Office Personnel

Tim Krebsbach, CED
Connie Jo Hjorth, PT
Holly Eaton, PT

Dates to Remember:

August 4 - September 28 - DCP late filed fee of \$100 will be assessed

September 10 - Signup begins for LCP and LIP

September 24-27 - Tribal Outreach Forum, Gran Tree, Bozeman

September 28 - Final date for late filed 2007 DCP contracts

October 1 - CRP payments begin being issued

October 2 & 3 - Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium, Dillon

October 8 - Holiday, Office Closed

October 13 - Deadline for removal of hay from CRP emergency haying and managed haying

October 13 - Removal of livestock for CRP emergency grazing

October 15 - CDP Signup Begins

November 2 - COC ballots will be mailed to eligible voters

November 22 - Holiday, Office closed

December 1 - NAP application closing date for Honey

December 3 - Final date to return voted COC ballots to FSA office



Prairie County FSA September 2007

Disaster Program Signup Begins

Signup for the *Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)* and the *Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)* will begin **September 10, 2007**.

Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 or producers located in counties contiguous to those counties are eligible. Also producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration made by President Bush may also be eligible for LCP, LIP and DDAP.

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007 due to natural disaster. This can include producers who suffered losses resulting from blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007. Livestock producers may elect to receive compensation for calendar year 2007 grazing season losses that are attributable to wildfire natural disaster occurring during the applicable period as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Eligible livestock include: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, deer or swine.

Producers will not be penalized if they reduced the average number of livestock they owned for grazing during the production year for which assistance is being provided.

The payment rate for each livestock category will be 61 percent of the USDA determined national payment rate.

LIP compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 that resulted from natural disasters.

Eligible livestock include: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, or deer.

The payment rate will be 26 percent of the market value of the livestock on the day before the date of death, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. These rates will be available at the FSA office during the sign-up period.

Producers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in LCP or LIP benefits. Eligible producers must choose only one year for which they wish to receive benefits in either of the programs.

Crop Disaster Program Signup Begins

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) will **begin October 15, 2007**. CDP does not require a disaster declaration.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price.

Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits.

2007 Tribal Outreach Forum

The USDA State FAC in cooperation with the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), 1994 Land Grant Tribal Colleges and Universities, Tribal Governments and Tribal organizations from across Montana will host a Tribal Outreach Forum at the Gran Tree Inn, in Bozeman, MT September 24-27, 2007.

The conference registration fee is \$35 which will be waived for individual Tribal producers who attend. A limited amount of scholarship funds is available.

If interested in applying for a scholarship, a registration form or an agenda, contact the FSA office for further details.

No Final 2006 Counter-cyclical Payments for Wheat, Barley and Oats

FSA will not issue final 2006-crop counter-cyclical payments to farmers enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) for wheat, barley and oats. The decision was made due to the fact that prices for these commodities have averaged well above levels that trigger counter-cyclical payments.

Counter-cyclical payments are made at the end of an eligible crop's 12-month marketing year. The 2002 Farm Bill provides for the availability of two partial counter-cyclical payments. USDA did not issue a first or second partial payment for the 2006 crop of wheat, barley or oats due to strong markets.

The counter-cyclical payment rate is the amount by which the "target price" of each commodity, specified by the 2002 Farm Bill, exceeds its effective price. The effective price equals the direct payment rate plus the higher of either: 1) the national average market price received by producers during the marketing year; or 2) the national average loan rate for the commodity.

For each commodity, the counter-cyclical payment for each crop year equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage times the farm's counter-cyclical payment yield times the counter-cyclical payment rate.

New Soil Rental Rates

CRP rental rates provide the basis for maximum payment rate calculations used to determine annual rental payments on a per acre basis. Periodic reviews are required to ensure that rental rates reflect county average cash market dryland rents. A state-wide review was completed this summer. This review of cash market dryland rents resulted in an increase of \$1 on a majority of the individual soil types. These new rates became effective on August 16, 2007 and will apply to new CRP contracts approved on or after that date.

The new CRP soil rental rates are posted at the local County FSA Office.

CRP Annual Rental Payments

CRP annual rental payments will be issued **after** October 1 and when authorized by the National Office. The county office then has 30 days to process the payments. If the office has contacted you to update your information, please do not delay. Your delay could mean no CRP payment!

Rural Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations.

Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Who may borrow?

To qualify for a loan, an applicant must:

- Be a citizen of the United States (or a permanent resident), which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- Be between 10 and 20 years old;
- Live in a town of less than 10,000 residents;
- Be unable to obtain a loan from other sources; and
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work, as outlined above.

The project adviser must recommend the project and the loan and agree to provide adequate supervision.

What are some possible projects?

All projects must be an income producing project.

What is the maximum loan amount?

The maximum amount for FSA youth loans is \$5,000

What security is required?

Applicants must sign a promissory note and be responsible for repaying the loan. In some cases, a cosigner may be required. Loan collateral normally consists of items purchased with loan funds.

What are the repayment terms?

The repayment schedule will be worked out with FSA. Payments will be tailored to the type of project for which the loan was made.

Beneficial Interest

For a producer to have Beneficial Interest in a commodity, the producer must have had ownership and control of the commodity at the time the producer requests a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP); or for Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL's), from the time of planting through the maturity of the loan or the date of repayment, whichever is earlier.

Beneficial interest is retained in the commodity if all of the following remain with the producer:

- Control of the commodity, the commodity must be within their possession;
- Risk of loss;
- Title to the commodity.

For LDP's, beneficial interest must be retained in the commodity from the time of planting through the date form CCC-633EZ, page 1 is filed.

For loans, beneficial interest must be retained in the commodity from the time of planting through the date the loan is redeemed or the crop is sold.

Once beneficial interest in the commodity is lost, the commodity remains ineligible for a loan or an LDP even if the producer regains control, risk of loss, and title.

Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium

The Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium will be held October 2 & 3, 2007 at the Beaverhead Golf Course, Highway 41 North in Dillon. Early registration is \$50 due by September 20. The Symposium is sponsored by the State FAC, MT Agri-Women, MT Farm Bureau Women, WIFE and the MT Cattlewomen. The symposium provides a platform for women involved in the promotion of Montana's agriculture to learn of issues affecting rural agricultural communities, promote leadership development, and further support women's leadership roles.

An agenda including the registration form is available at the FSA office or by logging into the Montana FSA homepage at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Inside this Issue

**Disaster Program Signup
Tribal Outreach Forum
Counter-Cyclical Payments
Soil Rental Rates
Beneficial Interest
Rural Youth Loans
Women Stepping Forward
For Agriculture**

Important Dates to Remember

September 10 – Signup begins for LCP, LIP
September 24-27 – Tribal Outreach Forum
September 28 - DCP late-filed deadline
October 2 & 3 – Women Stepping Forward for
Agriculture Symposium
October 8 – Columbus Day, Office Closed
October 15 – Signup begins for CDP
November 2 – COC ballots mailed to voters
November 22 – Thanksgiving, Office Closed
December 3 – COC ballots returned to office

COC Election

Ballots for the county committee (COC) election will be mailed to eligible voters by November 2.
The final date to submit ballots to the FSA county office is December 3.
Please vote and have your voice be heard for USDA programs to fit the needs of the local community.

2008 NAP Important Dates

Crop	Application Closing Date
Perennial Forage, Mint, Mixed Forage, All Types	March 15, 2008
Annual Crops – Both Fall & Spring Seeded Crops: Winter Peas & Rye; Garlic; Wheat Forage; Millet; Buckwheat; Sorghum Forages	March 15, 2008
Perennial Fruit (Apples, Cherries, etc.)	March 15, 2008
Honey	December 1, 2007

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact Tim Krebsbach at (406) 635-5791, PO Box 277, Terry, MT 59349-0277.